

Dear Mr. Forman:

Claims 1-5 and 78 are clearly anticipated by Alley.

Claims 6 and 79 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Below is a suggested Examiner's Amendment which will place this application in condition for allowance. Please review and get back with me at your earliest convenience.



Examiner H. Joyce
(571) 272-4876

Proposed Amendment

In claim 1, line 12, " , the locking mechanism carries a latch member that engages a catch member to lock the damper blade, the catch member is formed in a housing wall -- has been inserted after "closed".

Claim 6 has been canceled.

In claim 7, line 1, "6" has been changed to -- 1 --.

In claim 9, line 2, "a" has been changed to -- said --.

In claim 78, line 12, -- , the latch mechanism further comprise a plate that rotates along with the damper blade to bring the mating members into engagement -- has been inserted after "position".

Claim 79 has been canceled.

In claim 80, line 1, "79" has been changed to -- 77 --.



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Fax Cover Sheet

Date: 20 Feb 2005

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Application/Control Number: 10/733,971	Art Unit: 3749
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Re: Latch Assembly for Damper	CC:
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Comments:

Encl. Patent to Alley

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